

**CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY  
MEETING MINUTES  
November 20, 2002  
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA**

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The meeting of the California High-Speed Rail Authority was called to order on November 20 at 10:30 a.m. at the Kern County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 1115 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, California.

Members Present:      Rod Diridon, Chairperson  
                             Fran Florez, Vice Chairperson  
                             Dr. Ernest A. Bates  
                             William E. Leonard  
                             Joseph E. Petrillo

Members Absent:      Jerry Epstein, Vice Chairperson  
                             Ben L. Hom  
                             T.J. Stapleton  
                             Leland Wong

**Members Reports**

Member Florez thanked Ron Brummet for the opportunity to deliver a presentation at the Kern Transportation Forum that was held in early November. Member Leonard thanked the City of Bakersfield for the opportunity to meet in Bakersfield. Chairperson Diridon attended the High-Speed Ground Transportation Association (HSGTA) Board Meeting earlier this week in Washington, D.C. He presented the HSGTA meeting minutes and financial statements for the members and/or public to review. Chairperson Diridon reported that he and Executive Director Morshed attended the International Network for Urban Development (INTA) Conference in October and both delivered presentations. High-speed rail is rapidly expanding in France, Germany, Spain, Italy, Japan, Sweden, and China.

**Public Comment**

**Harvey Hall, Mayor of Bakersfield**

Mayor Hall welcomed the Board to the City of Bakersfield. He expressed support of the high-speed rail project. Mayor Hall gave special recognition to Jon Johnston, Councilmember of the City of Shafter and Howard Silver, Chairperson of the Golden Empire Transit Board of Directors. Mayor Hall presented a key to the City of Bakersfield to each of the Authority Board Members and Executive Director Morshed. Chairperson Diridon thanked Mayor Hall for his cordial comments and his collegiality. Chairperson Diridon thanked Councilmember Johnston and Chairperson Silver for their attendance.

**North American Rail Passenger Policy Presentation**

Dr. Anthony Perl, the Director of the CUNY Aviation Institute at York College, presented a discussion on North American Rail Passenger Policy. A copy of Dr. Perl's presentation is available upon request.

Member Bates and Member Petrillo entered the meeting.

**Approval of Minutes for October 16, 2002 Meeting**

Chairperson Diridon presented the minutes for approval. Member Florez moved to approve the October 16, 2002 meeting minutes. Member Leonard seconded the motion, which carried, 5-0.

### **Authority Members' Meetings for Compensation**

Chairperson Diridon presented the list of meetings for compensation for approval. Member Florez moved to approve the list of meetings for compensation. Member Leonard seconded the motion, which carried, 5-0.

### **Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Mehdi Morshed reported that he and Chairperson Diridon attended two international conferences, Eurailspeed 2002 in Madrid and INTA in Marseille. Member Bates also attended the Eurailspeed 2002 in Madrid. Executive Director Morshed reported that he and Chairperson Diridon rode the Paris-Marseille high-speed train and stated the similarities to the proposed California high-speed rail system. At Eurailspeed 2002, Executive Director Morshed learned about various high-speed rail projects currently underway: Madrid-Barcelona is expected to have a 220 mph train in operation next year, \$20 billion is dedicated to a Rome-Milan-Naples project; TGV plans to expand a line from Paris to Strasbourg and extend the Paris-Marseille line into Barcelona, connecting with the Spanish system.

Executive Director Morshed reported that he has been discussing with Caltrans Director Jeff Morales and Deputy Director Tony Harris how the Authority can utilize their services for some of the Authority's activities. Executive Director Morshed publicly thanked them for their continued help and support.

Executive Director Morshed reported Eurostar has notified the Authority via email that the Authority has been using an image that is a Eurostar registered trademark in some of the Authority's publications and on the Authority's website. Upon research, it seems that the Authority's consultant had permission to use the image. However, staff has removed the image from the Authority's website and informed the Attorney General's office of the matter.

Pursuant to the Board's preference, Executive Director Morshed proposed that the Board Meetings be held every fourth Tuesday of every month in 2003, with the exclusion of December and August. Chairperson Diridon presented the proposed 2003 meeting schedule for approval. Member Florez moved to approve the 2003 meeting schedule. Member Leonard seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

### **City of Bakersfield Presentation**

Mayor Harvey Hall gave an introduction to the presentation and then introduced City Manager Alan Tandy. Mr. Tandy presented the planned downtown Bakersfield development, and redevelopment, and he discussed the local goals for high-speed train service. A copy of this presentation is available upon request.

### **Kern County Presentation**

Mr. David Price presented an overview of the county's current and upcoming transportation projects. Mr. Raymond Bishop, Director of Kern County System of Airports, discussed current and upcoming airport projects pertaining to high-speed rail. A copy of this presentation is available upon request.

### **Public Comment**

#### **G. J. Zala**

Mr. Zala expressed support for a downtown Bakersfield station location.

**Larry Wiggins, American Institute of Architects, Golden Empire Chapter**

Mr. Wiggins presented a letter to the Board supporting a consensus proposal between the City of Bakersfield and the County of Kern for the proposed Bakersfield high-speed rail station location. The letter expresses support for a downtown Bakersfield station location.

**Art Unger, Sierra Club**

Mr. Unger expressed his support for a station location that would have the least impact on the environment.

**Tim Stormont, BFGC Architects**

Mr. Stormont expressed support for a station location, which will not only serve as a commuter hub, but would also be oriented to a destination.

**David Cross, HW Lakeshore Pines**

Mr. Cross expressed support for a downtown Bakersfield station location, specifically the proposed Amtrak/Truxtun/Union station.

**Graham Kaye-Eddie**

Mr. Kaye-Eddie expressed appreciation for Dr. Perl's presentation and encouraged the Board to investigate the SCAG Maglev study. Mr. Kaye-Eddie presented a document with his suggested viewpoints that seven defined participants have of the high-speed rail project.

**Herman Ruddell, Project Clean Air; Downtown Business and Property Owners, Association**

Mr. Ruddell stated he is working with Kern County on some alternatives that might help clean up the air. Mr. Ruddell expressed support for the high-speed rail project.

**Marvin Dean, Southeast Business & Property Owners' Assn.; Kern Co. Minority Contractor's Assn.**

Mr. Dean commended the City of Bakersfield and County of Kern for representing the community very well in their respective presentations. He expressed support for the high-speed rail project and a downtown Bakersfield station location near the current Amtrak station. He is interested in contract opportunities with the site acquisition, design, construction, and maintenance being given to Small and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises and stated the project should also create Veteran Business Enterprise goals.

**John Bacon**

Mr. Bacon expressed concern over noise and cost of the proposed high-speed rail.

**William Brans**

Chairperson Diridon read Mr. Brans' comments from his public comment registration card wanting to know if there are developed or renovated art facilities near high-speed train stations in Europe and Japan.

Member Bates commended Chairperson Diridon and Executive Director Morshed for attending the Eurailspeed 2002 and the INTA conference at their personal expense and delivering presentations that were well received.

**Identification of Date and Location of Next Meeting**

The next Authority Board meeting is scheduled on January 28, 2003 in Northern California.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.